REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. A set of formal replacement formal drawings is being submitted herewith. No new matter has been added.

Initially, although the Examiner has indicated that the various references cited in the previously-filed Information Disclosure Statements have been considered, and the box is checked off indicating that the forms PTO-1449 were returned with the Office Action, these initialed forms were not attached to the Action. It is requested that the initialed PTO-1449 forms be attached to the next Office Action.

Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The position has been taken that the terms "canonical path" and "clique" are unclear. Applicants comment as follows.

The concise Oxford English Dictionary, Eighth Edition, 1991, defines the word "canonical" as "authoritative, standard, accepted." "Clique" is defined as "a small exclusive group." The technical website www.webopedia.com, an online computer dictionary, defines "canonical" similarly, as "authoritative or standard, conforming to an accepted rule or procedure." In the specification, these terms are used in accordance with these understood definitions. The nodes in the network are arranged in "cliques," or groups, in the manner specified (in particular, two "cliques" being connected by a single path). Message distribution throughout the network is via "canonical" paths, i.e., a path that is authoritative, standard or conforms to an accepted rule, the "canonical" path being defined in the claim itself as the optimal route between nodes following three rules. As explained in the first few pages of the description of the preferred embodiment, by following the message flow rules required for a path to considered a "canonical" path, the appropriate structure of network is a set of "cliques" or groups. These are two ways of looking at the same concept. It is believed clear from the above that the terms were used in a clear and understandable manner, and the claims

using the terms are believed clearly to be definite and conform to Section 112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

As to the requirement under 1.105, the appropriate background to the invention is any example of distributed dealing systems. Such systems are discussed in the background section and include the Togher et al. U.S. Patent 5,375,055, now assigned commonly with the present application. The international counterpart publication of the Togher et al. patent, WO 93/15467, was made of record in the IDS filed on March 29, 2001. The background art known to the applicants in the related field has already been identified in the IDS submissions filed previously.

Applicants cannot submit any background information as to electronic trading systems with "canonical paths" or "cliques" because these concepts are part of the very invention to which the claims are directed and do not form part of the background knowledge.

As to identifying specific improvements of the claims over the prior art, there is no requirement under U.S. Patent law to identify specific improvements. Applicants is entitled to a patent unless the Patent Office identifies statutory reasons to the contrary, such as identifying a statutory basis to deny such grant. There is no requirement either that claims be written in Jepson format, with the improvement identified. For this reason, Applicants decline the Examiner's invitation. Since the Wilton reference was not cited in any rejection, it will not be commented upon by the Applicants.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: August 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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or a support for a plant or an instrument of punishment. **b** any slender walking-stick. —*v.tr.* **1** beat with a cane. **2** weave cane into (a chair etc.). ▫**cane-brake** *US* a tract of land overgrown with canes. **cane chair** a chair with a seat made of woven cane strips. **cane-sugar** sugar obtained from sugar-cane. **cane-trash** see TRASH. ▫▫ **caner** *n.* (in sense 2 of *v.*). **caning** *n.* [ME f. OF f. L *canna* f. Gk *kanna*]

canine /'keɪnaɪn, 'kæn-/ *adj.* & *n.* —*adj.* **1** of a dog or dogs. **2** of or belonging to the family Canidae, including dogs, wolves, foxes, etc. —*n.* **1** a dog. **2** (in full **canine tooth**) a pointed tooth between the incisors and premolars. [ME f. *canin* *-ine* or f. L *caninus* f. *canis* dog]

canister /'kænɪstə(r)/ *n.* **1** a small container, usu. of metal and cylindrical, for storing tea etc. **2 a** a cylinder shot, tear-gas, etc., that explodes on impact. **b** such cylinders collectively. [L *canistrum* f. Gk f. *kanna* CANE]

canker /'kæŋkə(r)/ *n.* & *v.* —*n.* **1 a** a destructive fungus disease of trees and plants. **b** an open wound in the stem of a tree or plant. **2** *Zool.* an ulcerous ear disease of animals esp. cats and dogs. **3** *Med.* an ulceration esp. of the lips. **4** a corrupting influence. —*v.tr.* **1** consume with canker. **2** corrupt. **3** (as **cankered** *adj.*) soured, malignant, crabbed. ▫**canker-worm** any caterpillar of various wingless moths which consume the buds and leaves of shade and fruit trees in N. America. ▫▫ **cankerous** *adj.* [OE *cancer* & ONF *cancre*, OF *chancre* f. L *cancer* crab]

canna /'kænə/ *n.* any tropical plant of the genus *Canna* with bright flowers and ornamental leaves. [L: see CANE]

cannabis /'kænəbɪs/ *n.* **1** any hemp plant of the genus *Cannabis*, esp. Indian hemp. **2** a preparation of parts of this used as an intoxicant or hallucinogen. ▫**cannabis resin** a sticky product, esp. from the flowering tops of the female cannabis plant. [L f. Gk]

canned /kænd/ *adj.* **1** pre-recorded (*canned laughter*; *canned music*). **2** supplied in a can (*canned beer*). **3** *sl.* drunk.

cannel /'kæn(ə)l/ *n.* (in full **cannel coal**) a bituminous coal burning with a bright flame. [16th c.: orig. N.Engl.]

cannelloni /ˌkænə'ləʊnɪ/ *n.pl.* tubes or rolls of pasta stuffed with meat or a vegetable mixture. [It. f. *cannello* stalk]

cannelure /'kænəljʊə(r)/ *n.* the groove round a bullet etc. [F f. *canneler* f. *canne* reed, CANE]

cannery /'kænərɪ/ *n.* (*pl.* **-ies**) a factory where food is canned.

cannibal /'kænɪb(ə)l/ *n.* & *adj.* —*n.* **1** a person who eats human flesh. **2** an animal that feeds on flesh of its own species. —*adj.* of or like a cannibal. ▫▫ **cannibalism** *n.* **cannibalistic** /-bə'lɪstɪk/ *adj.* **cannibalistically** /-bə'lɪstɪkəlɪ/ *adv.* [orig. pl. *Canibales* f. Sp.: var. of *Caribes* name of a W.Ind. nation]

cannibalize /'kænɪbəˌlaɪz/ *v.tr.* (also **-ise**) use (a machine etc.) as a source of spare parts for others. ▫▫ **cannibalization** /-'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.*

cannikin /'kænɪkɪn/ *n.* a small can. [Du. *kanneken* (as CAN², -KIN)]

cannon /'kænən/ *n.* & *v.* —*n.* **1** *hist.* (*pl.* same) a large heavy gun installed on a carriage or mounting. **2** an automatic aircraft gun firing shells. **3** *Billiards* the hitting of two balls successively by the cue-ball. **4** *Mech.* a hollow cylinder moving independently on a shaft. **5** (in full **cannon-bit**) a smooth round bit for a horse. —*v.intr.* **1** (usu. foll. by *against*, *into*) collide heavily or obliquely. **2** *Billiards* make a cannon shot. ▫**cannon-ball** *hist.* a large usu. metal ball fired by a cannon. **cannon-bone** the tube-shaped bone between the hock and fetlock of a horse. **cannon-fodder** soldiers regarded merely as material to be expended in war. [F *canon* f. It. *cannone* large tube f. *canna* CANE: in Billiards sense f. older CAROM]

cannonade /ˌkænə'neɪd/ *n.* & *v.* —*n.* a period of continuous heavy gunfire. —*v.tr.* bombard with a cannonade. [F f. It. *cannonata*]

cannot /'kænɒt, kæ'nɒt/ *v.aux.* can not.

cannula /'kænjʊlə/ *n.* (*pl.* **cannulae** /-li:/ or **cannulas**) *Surgery* a small tube for inserting into the body to allow fluid to enter or escape. [L, dimin. of *canna* cane]

cannulate /'kænjʊˌleɪt/ *v.tr.* *Surgery* introduce a cannula into.

canny /'kænɪ/ *adj.* (**cannier**, **canniest**) **1 a** shrewd, worldly-wise. **b** thrifty. **c** circumspect. **2** sly, drily humorous. **3** *Sc.* & *N.Engl.* pleasant, agreeable. ▫▫ **cannily** *adv.* **canniness** *n.* [CAN¹ (in sense 'know') + -Y¹]

canoe /kə'nu:/ *n.* & *v.* —*n.* a small narrow boat with pointed ends usu. propelled by paddling. —*v.intr.* (**canoes**, **canoed**, **canoeing**) travel in a canoe. ▫▫ **canoeist** *n.* [Sp. and Haitian *canoa*]

canon /'kænən/ *n.* **1 a** a general law, rule, principle, or criterion. **b** a church decree or law. **2** (*fem.* **canoness**) **a** a member of a cathedral chapter. **b** a member of certain RC orders. **3 a** a collection or list of sacred books etc. accepted as genuine. **b** the recognized genuine works of a particular author; a list of these. **4** the part of the Roman Catholic Mass containing the words of consecration. **5** *Mus.* a piece with different parts taking up the same theme successively, either at the same or at a different pitch. ▫**canon law** ecclesiastical law. **canon regular** (or **regular canon**) see REGULAR *adj.* 9b. [OE f. L f. Gk *kanōn*, in ME also f. AF & OF *canun*, *-on*; in sense 2 ME f. OF *canonie* f. eccl.L *canonicus*: cf. CANONICAL]

cañon var. of CANYON.

canonic /kə'nɒnɪk/ *adj.* = CANONICAL *adj.* [OE f. OF *canonique* or L *canonicus* f. Gk *kanonikos* (as CANON)]

canonical /kə'nɒnɪk(ə)l/ *adj.* & *n.* —*adj.* **1 a** according to or ordered by canon law. **b** included in the canon of Scripture. **2** authoritative, standard, accepted. **3** of a cathedral chapter or a member of it. **4** *Mus.* in canon form. —*n.* (in *pl.*) the canonical dress of the clergy. ▫**canonical hours** *Eccl.* the times fixed for a formal set of prayers or for the celebration of marriage. ▫▫ **canonically** *adv.* [med.L *canonicalis* (as CANONIC)]

canonicate /kə'nɒnɪkət/ *n.* = CANONRY.

canonicity /ˌkænə'nɪsɪtɪ/ *n.* the status of being canonical. [L *canonicus* canonical]

canonist /'kænənɪst/ *n.* an expert in canon law. [ME f. F *canoniste* or f. med.L *canonista*: see CANON]

canonize /'kænəˌnaɪz/ *v.tr.* (also **-ise**) **1 a** declare officially to be a saint, usu. with a ceremony. **b** regard as a saint. **2** admit to the canon of Scripture. **3** sanction by Church authority. ▫▫ **canonization** /-'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.* [ME f. med.L *canonizare*: see CANON]

canonry /'kænənrɪ/ *n.* (*pl.* **-ies**) the office or benefice of a canon.

canoodle /kə'nu:d(ə)l/ *v.intr.* *colloq.* kiss and cuddle amorously. [19th-c. US: orig. unkn.]

Canopic /kə'nəʊpɪk/ *adj.* ▫**Canopic jar** (or vase) an urn used for holding the entrails of an embalmed body in an ancient Egyptian burial. [L *Canopicus* f. *Canopus* in ancient Egypt]

canopy /'kænəpɪ/ *n.* & *v.* —*n.* (*pl.* **-ies**) **1 a** a covering hung or held up over a throne, bed, person, etc. **b** the sky. **c** an overhanging shelter. **2** *Archit.* a rooflike projection over a niche etc. **3** the uppermost layers of foliage etc. in a forest. **4 a** the expanding part of a parachute. **b** the cover of an aircraft's cockpit. —*v.tr.* (**-ies**, **-ied**) supply or be a canopy to. [ME f. med.L *canopeum* f. L *conopeum* f. Gk *kōnōpeion* couch with mosquito-curtains f. *kōnōps* gnat]

canorous /kə'nɔ:rəs/ *adj.* melodious, resonant. [L *canorus* f. *canere* sing]

canst /kænst/ *archaic 2nd person sing.* of CAN¹.

cant¹ /kænt/ *n.* & *v.* —*n.* **1** insincere pious or moral

conditions. 3 the prevailing trend of opinion or public feeling. □□ **climatic** /-'mætɪk/ *adj.* **climatical** /-'mætɪk(ə)l/ *adj.* **climatically** /-'mætɪkəlɪ/ *adv.* [ME /-'mætɪk(ə)l/ *adj.* **climatically** /-'mætɪkəlɪ/ *adv.* [ME f. OF *climat* or LL *clima climat-* f. Gk *klima* f. *klinō* slope]

climatology /ˌklaɪmə'tɒlədʒɪ/ *n.* the scientific study of climate. □□ **climatological** /-tə'lɒdʒɪk(ə)l/ *adj.* **climatologist** *n.*

climax /'klaɪmæks/ *n.* & *v.* —*n.* 1 the event or point of greatest intensity or interest; a culmination or apex. 2 a sexual orgasm. 3 *Rhet.* a a series arranged in order of increasing importance etc. b the last term in such a series. 4 *Ecol.* a state of equilibrium reached by a plant community. —*v.tr.* & *intr. colloq.* bring or come to a climax. [LL f. Gk *klimax -akos* ladder, climax]

climb /klaɪm/ *v.* & *n.* —*v.* 1 *tr.* & *intr.* (often foll. by *up*) ascend, mount, go or come up, esp. by using one's hands. 2 *intr.* (of a plant) grow up a wall, tree, trellis, etc. by clinging with tendrils or by twining. 3 *intr.* make progress from one's own efforts, esp. in social rank, intellectual or moral strength, etc. 4 *intr.* (of an aircraft, the sun, etc.) go upwards. 5 *intr.* slope upwards. —*n.* 1 an ascent by climbing. 2 a a place, esp. a hill, climbed or to be climbed. b a recognized route up a mountain etc. □ **climb down** 1 descend with the help of one's hands. 2 withdraw from a stance taken up in argument, negotiation, etc. **climb-down** *n.* such a withdrawal. **climbing-frame** a structure of joined bars etc. for children to climb on. **climbing-iron** a set of spikes attachable to a boot for climbing trees or ice slopes. □□ **climbable** *adj.* [OE *climban* f. WG, rel. to CLEAVE²]

climber /'klaɪmə(r)/ *n.* 1 a mountaineer. 2 a climbing plant. 3 a person with strong social etc. aspirations.

clime /klaɪm/ *n. literary* 1 a region. 2 a climate. [LL *clima*: see CLIMATE]

clinch /klɪntʃ/ *v.* & *n.* —*v.* 1 *tr.* confirm or settle (an argument, bargain, etc.) conclusively. 2 *intr. Boxing* & *Wrestling* (of participants) become too closely engaged. 3 *intr. colloq.* embrace. 4 *tr.* secure (a nail or rivet) by driving the point sideways when through. 5 *tr. Naut.* fasten (a rope) with a particular half hitch. —*n.* 1 a a clinching action. b a clinched state. 2 *colloq.* an (esp. amorous) embrace. 3 *Boxing* & *Wrestling* an action or state in which participants become too closely engaged. [16th-c. var. of CLENCH]

clincher /'klɪntʃ(ə)r/ *n. colloq.* a remark or argument that settles a matter conclusively.

clincher-built var. of CLINKER-BUILT.

cline /klaɪn/ *n. Biol.* the graded sequence of differences within a species etc. □□ **clinal** *adj.* [Gk *klinō* to slope]

cling /klɪŋ/ *v.* & *n.* —*v.intr.* (*past* and *past part.* **clung** /klʌŋ/) 1 (foll. by *to*) adhere, stick, or hold on (by means of stickiness, suction, grasping, or embracing). 2 (foll. by *to*) remain persistently or stubbornly faithful (to a friend, habit, idea, etc.). 3 maintain one's grasp; keep hold; resist separation. —*n.* = CLINGSTONE. □ **cling film** a very thin clinging transparent plastic film, used as a covering esp. for food. **cling together** remain in one body or in contact. □□ **clinger** *n.* **clingingly** *adv.* [OE *clingan* f. Gmc: cf. CLENCH]

clingstone /'klɪŋstəʊn/ *n.* a variety of peach or nectarine in which the flesh adheres to the stone (cf. FREESTONE 2).

clingy /'klɪŋɪ/ *adj.* (**clingier**, **clingiest**) liable to cling. □□ **clinginess** *n.*

clinic /'klɪnɪk/ *n.* 1 *Brit.* a private or specialized hospital. 2 a place or occasion for giving specialist medical treatment or advice (*eye clinic*; *fertility clinic*). 3 a gathering at a hospital bedside for the teaching of medicine or surgery. 4 *US* a conference or short course on a particular subject (*golf clinic*). □□ **clinician** /klɪ'nɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.* [F *clinique* f. Gk *klinikē* (*tekhnē*) clinical, lit. bedside (art)]

clinical /'klɪnɪk(ə)l/ *adj.* 1 *Med.* a of or for the treatment of patients. b taught or learnt at the hospital bedside. 2 dispassionate, coldly detached. □ **clinical death** death judged by observation of a person's condition. **clinical medicine** medicine dealing with the observation and treatment of patients. **clinical thermometer** a thermometer with a small range, for taking a person's temperature. □□ **clinically** *adv.* [L *clinicus* f. Gk *klinikos* f. *klinē* bed]

clink¹ /klɪŋk/ *n.* & *v.* —*n.* a sharp ringing sound. —*v.* 1 *intr.* make a clink. 2 *tr.* cause (glasses etc.) to clink. [ME, prob. f. MDu. *klinken*; cf. CLANG, CLANK]

clink² /klɪŋk/ *n.* (often prec. by *in*) *sl.* prison. [16th c.: orig. unkn.]

clinker¹ /'klɪŋkə(r)/ *n.* 1 a mass of slag or lava. 2 a stony residue from burnt coal. [earlier *clincard* etc. f. obs. Du. *klinkaerd* f. *klinken* CLINK¹]

clinker² /'klɪŋkə(r)/ *n.* 1 *Brit. sl.* something excellent or outstanding. 2 *US sl.* a mistake or blunder. [CLINK¹ + -ER¹]

clinker-built /'klɪŋkəˌbɪlt/ *adj.* (also **clincher-built** /'klɪntʃəˌbɪlt/) (of a boat) having external planks overlapping downwards and secured with clinched copper nails. [*clink* N.Engl. var. of CLINCH + -ER¹]

clinkstone /'klɪŋkstəʊn/ *n.* a kind of feldspar that rings like iron when struck.

clinometer /klaɪ'nɒmɪtə(r)/ *n. Surveying* an instrument for measuring slopes. [Gk *klinō* to slope + -METER]

cliometrics /ˌklaɪə'metrɪks/ *n.pl.* (usu. treated as *sing.*) a method of historical research making much use of statistical information and methods. [*Clio*, Muse of history + METRIC + -ICS]

clip¹ /klɪp/ *n.* & *v.* —*n.* 1 a device for holding things together or for attachment to an object as a marker, esp. a paper-clip or a device worked by a spring. 2 a piece of jewellery fastened by a clip. 3 a set of attached cartridges for a firearm. —*v.tr.* (**clipped**, **clipping**) 1 fix with a clip. 2 grip tightly. 3 surround closely. □ **clip-on** attached by a clip. [OE *clyppan* embrace f. WG]

clip² /klɪp/ *v.* & *n.* —*v.tr.* (**clipped**, **clipping**) 1 cut with shears or scissors, esp. cut short or trim (hair, wool, etc.). 2 trim or remove the hair or wool of (a person or animal). 3 *colloq.* hit smartly. 4 a omit (a letter etc.) from a word. b omit letters or syllables of (words pronounced). 5 *Brit.* remove a small piece of (a ticket) to show that it has been used. 6 cut (an extract) from a newspaper etc. 7 *sl.* swindle, rob. 8 pare the edge of (a coin). —*n.* 1 an act of clipping, esp. shearing or hair-cutting. 2 *colloq.* a smart blow, esp. with the hand. 3 a short sequence from a motion picture. 4 the quantity of wool clipped from a sheep, flock, etc. 5 *colloq.* speed, esp. rapid. □ **clip-joint** *sl.* a club etc. charging exorbitant prices. **clip a person's wings** prevent a person from pursuing ambitions or acting effectively. □□ **clippable** *adj.* [ME f. ON *klippa*, prob. imit.]

clipboard /'klɪpbɔ:d/ *n.* a small board with a spring clip for holding papers etc. and providing support for writing.

clip-clop /'klɪpklɒp/ *n.* & *v.* —*n.* a sound such as the beat of a horse's hooves. —*v.intr.* (**-clopped**, **-clopping**) make such a sound. [imit.]

clipper /'klɪpə(r)/ *n.* 1 (usu. in *pl.*) any of various instruments for clipping hair, fingernails, hedges, etc. 2 a fast sailing-ship, esp. one with raking bows and masts. 3 a fast horse.

clippie /'klɪpɪ/ *n. Brit. colloq.* a bus conductress.

clipping /'klɪpɪŋ/ *n.* a piece clipped or cut from something, esp. from a newspaper.

clique /kli:k/ *n.* a small exclusive group of people. □□ **cliquey** *adj.* (**cliquier**, **cliquiest**). **cliquish** *adj.* **cliquishness** *n.* **cliquism** *n.* [F f. *cliquer* CLICK]

C.Lit. *abbr. Brit.* Companion of Literature.

clitic /'klɪtɪk/ *n.* (often *attrib.*) an enclitic or proclitic. □□ **cliticization** /-tɪkaɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.*

clitoris /'klɪtərɪs, 'klaɪ-/ *n.* a small erectile part of